

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Original) A composition for maintaining or prolonging the appearance of a floral or foliage display comprising a polymer latex, a nutrient/protectant component, a coating adjuvant component and the balance water, which composition maintains or prolongs said appearance upon application to surfaces of cut plants of said display.
2. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said polymer latex comprises a latex of acrylic, methacrylic, vinyl acrylic, halogen tagged acrylic, styrene acrylic, styrene butadiene, vinyl or vinyl alcohol polymers or combinations thereof.
3. (Original) A composition as in Claim 2 wherein said polymer latex comprises a latex of acrylic or methacrylic polymers or combinations thereof.
4. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 3%-30% of said composition.
5. (Original) A composition as in Claim 4 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 3%-10% of said composition.
6. (Original) A composition as in Claim 5 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 4%-8% of said composition.
7. (Currently amended) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said nutrient/protectant component comprises at least one of an antimicrobial agent, an antifungal agent, nourishing agent, germicide, ethylene inhibitor, anti-oxidant or plant oils or mixtures thereof; said nourishing agent comprises a sugar; said germicide comprises an ammonium salt, an 8-hydroxyquinoline sulphate or citrate or a thiobendazole; said ethylene inhibitor comprises carbon dioxide, aminooxyacetic acid

or a silver thiosulfate; said anti-oxidant comprises vitamin E or a liquid p-phenylene-diamine derivative; or said plant oil comprises glycerin or aloe.

8. (Original) A composition as in Claim 7 wherein said antimicrobial agent or said antifungal agent comprises a mixture of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one and proylene or said nourishing agent comprises sucrose.

9. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said nutrient/protectant component is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 0.1 %-7.0% of said composition.

10. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said coating adjuvant component comprises a surfactant, a wetting agent or a defoamer.

11. (Original) A composition as in Claim 10 wherein said coating adjuvant component is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 0.5%-2.0% of said composition.

12. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises roses, mums, dahlias, carnations, lilies, ferns, iris or greenery.

13. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises cut plants.

14. (Original) A composition as in Claim 1 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises live plants.

15. (Original) A composition for maintaining or prolonging the appearance of a floral or foliage display comprising a polymer latex, a nutrient/protectant component, a coating adjuvant component and the balance water, which composition when applied

to surfaces of cut plants of said display retains an appearance of said display substantially the same as its appearance at the time of application of said composition, retention of said appearance extending over an prolonged period of time or extends for a prolonged period of time the service life of said display, said service life comprising maintenance of an acceptable appearance of said display without significant onset of wilting.

16. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said polymer latex comprises a latex of acrylic, methacrylic, vinyl acrylic, halogen tagged acrylic, styrene acrylic, styrene butadiene, vinyl or vinyl alcohol polymers or combinations thereof.

17. (Original) A composition as in Claim 16 wherein said polymer latex comprises a latex of acrylic or methacrylic polymers or combinations thereof.

18. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 3%-30% of said composition.

19. (Original) A composition as in Claim 18 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 3%-10% of said composition.

20. (Original) A composition as in Claim 19 wherein said polymer latex is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 4%-8% of said composition.

21. (Currently amended) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said nutrient/protectant component comprises at least one of an antimicrobial agent, antifungal agent, nourishing agent, germicide, ethylene inhibitor, anti-oxidant or plant oils or mixtures thereof; said nourishing agent comprises a sugar; said germicide

comprises an ammonium salt, an 8-hydroxyquinoline sulphate or citrate or a thiobendazole; said ethylene inhibitor comprises carbon dioxide, aminooxyacetic acid or a silver thiosulfate; said anti-oxidant comprises vitamin E or a liquid p-phenylenediamine derivative; or said plant oil comprises glycerin or aloe.

22. (Original) A composition as in Claim 21 wherein said antimicrobial agent or said antifungal agent comprises a mixture of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one and proylene or said nourishing agent comprises sucrose.

23. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said nutrient/protectant component is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 0.1 %-7.0% of said composition.

24. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said coating adjuvant component comprises a surfactant, a wetting agent or a defoamer.

25. (Original) A composition as in Claim 24 wherein said coating adjuvant component is present in said composition in a concentration on the order of 0.5%-2.0% of said composition.

26. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein an anticipated period of time of preserved appearance is increased by at least 20%.

27. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said floral or foliage displays comprise roses, mums, dahlias, carnations, lilies, ferns, iris or greenery.

28. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises cut plants.

29. (Original) A composition as in Claim 15 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises live plants.

30. (Original) A method for maintaining or prolonging the appearance of a floral or foliage display which comprises applying to surfaces of plants of said display a composition comprising a polymer latex, a nutrient/protectant component, a coating adjuvant component and the balance water.

31. (Original) A method as in Claim 30 wherein said applying comprises spraying said composition onto said surfaces of said plants.

32. (Original) A method as in Claim 30 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises cut plants.

33. (Original) A method as in Claim 30 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises live plants.

34. (Original) A method for maintaining or prolonging the appearance of a floral or foliage display which comprises applying to surfaces of plants of said display a composition comprising a polymer latex, a nutrient/protectant component, a coating adjuvant component and the balance water, whereby following application said display retains an appearance substantially the same as its appearance at the time of said application over a prolonged period of time or the service life of said display is extended for a prolonged period of time, said service life comprising maintenance of an acceptable appearance of said display without significant onset of wilting.

35. (Original) A method as in Claim 34 wherein said applying comprises spraying said composition onto said surfaces of said plants.

36. (Original) A method as in Claim 34 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises cut plants.

37. (Original) A method as in Claim 34 wherein said floral or foliage display comprises live plants.